

Message Text

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JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 H-02 L-02 DODE-00 MMS-01 /070 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:CLSTERMER:LRR
APPROVED BY EA - LESTER E. EDMOND
EA/TB - MR. ROBERTS

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R 020040Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: USG/GUB ANTI-NARCOTICS COOPERATION

REF: RANGOON 0800

1. EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDMOND BRIEFED BURMESE AMBASSADOR U LWIN ON MARCH 31 REGARDING THE SHAN STATE ARMY PROPOSAL AND ALSO ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING A DEA REPRESENTATIVE IN RANGOON. DRAWING ON REFTEL, WHICH HAD JUST ARRIVED, EDMOND STATED THAT SIMILAR BRIEFINGS HAD BEEN GIVEN BY AMBASSADORS OSBORN AND VANCE TO GUB AUTHORITIES ON MARCH 28.

2. EDMOND EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROPOSAL, HOW IT CAME INTO OUR POSSESSION, THE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN EXPLORING ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO REDUCE THE VOLUME OF NARCOTICS FLOWING INTO THE UNITED STATES, AND HOW THE DE-
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PARTMENT VIEWED THE SSA SCHEME. EDMOND EMPHASIZED THAT THE

DEPARTMENT WISHED ONLY TO INFORM THE GUB OF THE PROPOSAL, THAT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS WOULD BE HELD APRIL 8 ON THE PROPOSAL, AND THAT FURTHER PUBLICITY COULD BE EXPECTED. THE DEPARTMENT, EDMOND STRESSED, VIEWED THE PROPOSAL AS FRAUGHT WITH MANY PROBLEMS. NONETHELESS, HE HOPED THE GUB WOULD EXAMINE IT IN TERMS OF WHETHER THE PROPOSAL COULD

CONCEIVABLY BE UTILIZED AS ANOTHER POSSIBLE MEANS OF COPING WITH THE NARCOTICS MENACE. THE GUB SHOULD UNDERSTAND, EDMOND ASSERTED, THAT THE USG WOULD ONLY RESPOND TO A PROPOSAL WHICH HAD THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF THE BURMESE AUTHORITIES, WHICH INVOLVED THE PARTICIPATION OF A CREDIBLE PRODUCER GROUP, AND WHICH HELD OUT THE HOPE OF REDUCING RATHER THAN INCREASING OPIUM PRODUCTION.

3. EDMOND ALSO EXPLAINED THAT DEA HAD MEN STATIONED IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES WORKING UNDER EMBASSY JURISDICTION WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENTS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO MEET THE CHALLENGE POSED BY INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS. AS THE USG AND GUB ALREADY WERE COOPERATING ON THIS PROBLEM WITH THE HELICOPTER PROGRAM, FURTHER ADVANTAGES MIGHT BE GAINED BY ENABLING A TRAINED USG ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WORK WITH HIS BURMESE COUNTERPARTS.

4. U LWIN THANKED EDMOND AND SAID HE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE SHAN STATE ARMY PROPOSAL THROUGH THE MEDIA AND REMEMBERED THAT A SIMILAR PLAN WAS GIVEN TO REP. WOLFF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. HE PROMISED TO REPORT THIS MEETING TO THE GUB AND WOULD INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF ANY REACTION THERETO AS WELL AS TO THE QUESTION OF ASSIGNING A DEA REP TO RANGOON.

5. DURING THE COURSE OF THE INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATION, WHICH LASTED SOME 45 MINUTES, EDMOND HANDED A COPY OF THE SSA PROPOSAL TO U LWIN SAYING THAT, SINCE THERE HAD BEEN SO MUCH PUBLICITY ABOUT IT ALREADY, THE GUB SHOULD KNOW WHAT EVERYBODY WAS AND WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT. (FULL MEMCON BEING POUCHED). KISSINGER

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